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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

TAMURA et al.

Atty. Dck. No. 107183-00003

Serial No.: 09/647,930

Examiner: Virginia Manoharan

Filed: October 16, 2000

Art Unit: 1764

For: DISTILLATION APPARATUS AND DISTILLATION METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: June 11, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information item(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the item(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- c. A check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

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3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
4. The references were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information. The references listed in the search report, but not provided, were cited in an earlier information Disclosure Statement filed by Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
107183-00003

SERIAL NO.

1079300

APPLICANT

TAMURA et al.

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FILING DATE

October 16, 2000

GROUP

1764

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	4,557,877	12/10/1985	Hofstetter			12/21/1983
	AB	5,464,573	11/07/1995	Tokerud et al.			05/09/1994
	AC	4,689,183	08/25/1987	Helms et al.			12/02/1985
	AD	5,501,079	03/26/1996	Kreis et al.			01/24/1994
	AE						
	AF						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO	PART.
	AG	0 793 985 A	09/10/1997	EPO					
	AH								
	AI								
	AJ								
	AK								
	AL								

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AM	Supplementary European Search Report EP 99 91 7217, April 25, 2003.
AN	
AO	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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